

From: [Anthony Barber](#)
To: [Calvin Terada](#)
Subject: Re: Coast Guard begins clean-up of derelict vessel on the Columbia River
Date: 08/07/2008 03:44 PM

Cal,

The CG mentioned their work on this at the last RRT meeting. I think they said they are using the PST to help them. I don't know if anyone from the EPA is further involved than just acknowledgment at the RRT meeting.

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To report oil or chemical spills, call the National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802.

▼ [Calvin Terada/R10/USEPA/US](#)

**Calvin
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08/07/2008 01:57 PM

To Anthony Barber/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Chris
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cc

Subject Coast Guard begins clean-up of derelict vessel on the
Columbia River

Anyone know who's working with Sector Portland on this project? Just saw this on the CG Homeport website. Cal

News Release

Date: August 7, 2008
Contact: Lt. Cmdr. Dave Smith
(503) 240-9317

Coast Guard begins clean-up of derelict vessel on the Columbia River

PORTLAND - The Coast Guard, Environmental Protection Agency, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and the Washington Department of Ecology are beginning the process of removing hazardous materials aboard a derelict vessel on the Oregon side of the Columbia River near Longview, Wash., and Rainier, Ore.

Contractors working under the direction of the Coast Guard are removing oil and other hazardous substances from the ex-USS Washtenaw County (LST-1166), a former 374-foot Navy landing ship. The vessel was decommissioned in 1973 following its service during the Vietnam War and has been privately owned by various entities since. The vessel poses an environmental threat due to deterioration and the presence of hazardous materials and oily waste on board. The threat has been greatly increased by the actions of metal thieves, who stripped piping and fittings from the ship, triggering the release of hazardous substances onto most of the decks aboard the vessel.

The Coast Guard Captain of the Port of Portland issued an order in June 2008 requiring the owner of the vessel to submit a plan for oil and hazardous material cleanup. The owner, a small local non-profit organization, was unable to meet the requirements of the order which resulted in the Coast Guard overseeing the removal of these products.

After an assessment, the Coast Guard, EPA and other state and local agencies have begun the long process of removing hazardous materials on the vessel. Pollution investigators from the combined agencies will continue to oversee cleanup efforts aboard the vessel, which are expected to be completed by the end of October.

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